

The
pleasures
of Sin ...
for a
Season

The Scene Today:

It may seem contradictory and unbelievable but is not this the rage of the age: multitudes of unwary individuals craving to bring affliction upon their own bodies and souls with little regard to the final consequences? Why do many abuse their bodies with drugs and drink with damaging repercussions, even untimely deaths?

What has happened to the sanctity of marriage, the God ordained relationship wherein men and women should live and rejoice together for life? Why do young girls seem intent on throwing away their chastity to men other than their own husbands? Why are men intent on humbling women out of wedlock? Peer pressure, prevention of unwanted babies and protection from undesirable diseases is all that matters to the godless promoters of such sinful acts. ***“Flee fornication”*** (1Corinthians 6:18) and ***“Do not commit adultery”*** (Luke 18:20) cries the Word of the Living God and again, ***“Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge”*** (Hebrews 13:4).

In this ego centric, self centred age where emphasis is to pursue that which the desires crave, no concern is expressed toward the righteousness of such passions and ensuing consequences before God, who sees all: ***“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do”*** (Hebrews 4:13) ***“Who will render to every man according to his deeds”*** (Romans 2:6). In the covetous societies wherein many live with the mind focused on winning one of the National Lotteries, in pursuit of all manner of self gratifying indulgences, no heed is given to the fact that one can only ***“enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season”*** (Hebrews 11:25). These pseudo pleasures are delusional, enshrouded in the ***“deceitfulness of sin”*** and exhibit all the hallmarks of the devil, the great deceiver and enemy of God and men in his effective beguiling work.

The Straight Truth:

Man was created ***“in the image of God”*** (Genesis 1:27) and is no mere animal, possessing intellect, emotion, soul and spirit and as such is responsible and accountable to God for his every act. His body was to be used for the glory of God, yet man rebelled, was disobedient to his Creator and became a sinner ***“By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned”*** (Romans 5:12). We are ***“Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God”*** (2Timothy 3:4), wilful rebels against God and although some realise this, within ourselves we have no power to overcome the inherent sinfulness of our hearts for ***“the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked:”*** (Jeremiah 17:9).

It deceives us as to the satisfaction to be found when walking in accord to the mind of God with respect to the use of our bodily members. Rather than seek God’s forgiveness and His power to overcome, we are driven deeper into sin and severity of pending judgment. Whether we are guilty of such indulgences as previously described or regard ourselves as morally upright and God fearing, one thing is certain – we are all wanton before God: ***“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”*** (Romans 3:23).

The Sacrificial Testimony:

But against this tragic backdrop of human failure stands the greatness of God’s reconciling Love: ***“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting Life”*** (John 3:16). In light of all that the Son would accomplish via His death on the cross and bodily resurrection, He could say in grace and truth to a woman caught in the act of adultery ***“Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more”*** (John 8:11). If there is true repentance and true faith in the Lord Jesus there is true salvation no matter how far into the

depths of sin you may have gone. The consequences of our sinful actions may remain with us during our life on earth but having embraced the forgiveness of God we can glorify God in our bodies for the remainder of our days on earth before we enter Heaven.

Moses is an example in the Bible to encourage us to accept Christ by faith. God was able to use him to bring the Israelites out from the bondage of Egypt, himself being raised in Pharaoh's house with all its sinful pleasures at his fingertips. It is recorded: ***“By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt ...”*** (Hebrews 11:24-27). Like Moses, you need to get a right evaluation of life and recognise that this world has nothing of any value to offer. True riches are found in Christ alone and will be realised in the world to come where at God's ***“right hand there are pleasures for evermore”*** (Psalm 16:11). There may be reproach and suffering down here but there is glory above.

But what of those that refuse Christ and His salvation and continue in the ***“pleasures of Sin”***? Let the Word of God speak: ***“But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things”*** (Romans 2:2) and again ***“That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness”*** (2Thessalonians 2:12).

What an eternal tragedy if you should find yourself in Hell because of a little folly for a few transient years: ***“Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die”*** (Ezekiel 33:11).